

HMDT PRESENTS
music
ENSURING A MUSICAL FUTURE

JINA AND THE STEM SISTERS

COMPOSER
Jenny Gould

DIRECTOR
Clare Whistler

WRITER
Rachel Barnett-Jones

DESIGNER
Sophia Lovell Smith

SPRING TOUR
17 MARCH MILLFIELDS THEATRE
21-25 MARCH MITCHELL ARTS THEATRE
31 MARCH-2 APRIL SNAPE MALTINGS
20 APRIL-1 MAY LITTLE ANGEL THEATRE



STEM Sisters created and commissioned by HMDT
Music is made possible by generous grants from:



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



SYNOPSIS

SCENE 1

Budding scientist Jina is lost in the forest.



SCENE 2

Jina meets Hypatia, the famous Ancient Egyptian astronomer and teacher who introduces her to astronomer Caroline Herschel, the first woman to find a comet, Chinese astronomer and poet Wang Zhenyi and first female African American Astronaut Mae Jemison. Hypatia gives Jina the gift of curiosity.



SCENE 3

Maria Sybilla Merian, explorer, illustrator and entomologist is searching for the *Nelloptodes gretae* (Greta Thunberg's beetle). Describing the never-ending cycle of metamorphosis, she encourages Jina to never give up, with the gift of persistence.



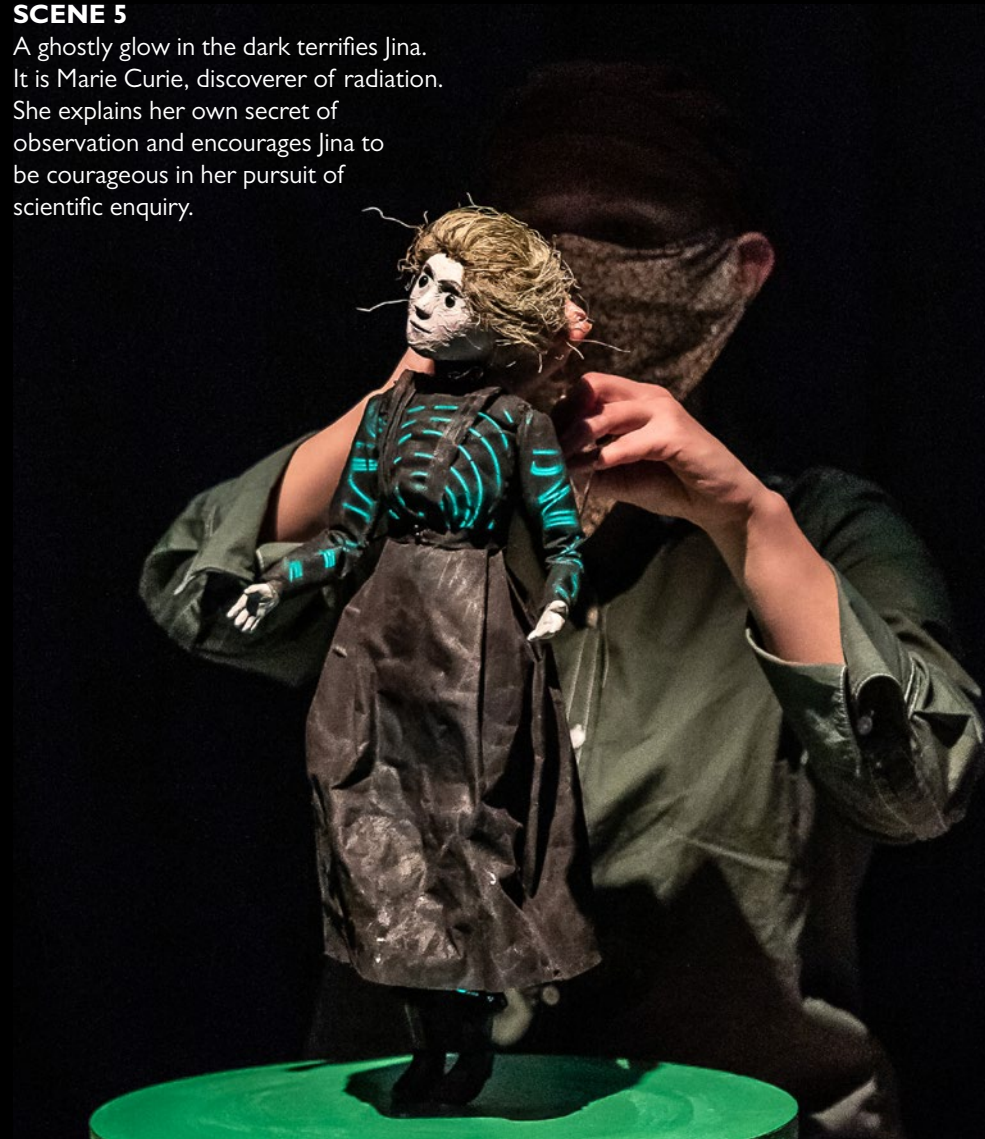
SCENE 4

Jina's search is interrupted by mathematician Ada Lovelace who suggests an algorithm to find her way out. She offers the gift of creativity.



SCENE 5

A ghostly glow in the dark terrifies Jina. It is Marie Curie, discoverer of radiation. She explains her own secret of observation and encourages Jina to be courageous in her pursuit of scientific enquiry.



SCENE 6

The forest glows as inventor Hedy Lamarr appears in the moon. Known for a beauty as a film star and not taken seriously for her discovery of frequency-hopping for torpedoes, she inspires Jina with the gift of open-mindedness.



SCENE 7

Jina now knows how to find her way home. She realises that by showing her the past, the STEM Sisters have shown her her future. She too can be a scientist “a new part, a brand-new part of the whole”.



JINA AND THE STEM SISTERS

COMPOSER
Jenny Gould

WRITER
Rachel Barnett-Jones

ARTISTIC TEAM

Director
Clare Whistler

Designer
Sophia Lovell Smith

Music Director
Jenny Gould

PERFORMERS

PUPPETEERS/ACTORS

Ruth Calkin
Andrea Sadler

SINGERS

Mae Jemison, Hedy Lamarr
Nadine Benjamin

Jina
Eloise Eisenberg

Wang Zhenyi, Maria Sybilla Merian
Jessica Gillingwater

Caroline Herschel
Abigail Kelly

Marie Curie
Susan Moore

THE STEM SISTERS BAND

Wind (clarinet/flute/sax)
Sarah Brinkley

Piano/keys
Jenny Gould

Percussion
Lauren Kosty

Violin
Joana Ly

Cello
Molly McWhirter

Bass
Jo Nichols

THE I CAN SING!
CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Music Directors
David Keefe and **Tertia Sefton-Green**

Alice Rohini Abeyasinghe,
Nya Agyekum, Eloise Eisenberg,
Oliver Griffiths, Serenity
Hainsworth, Victor Hallam,
Esme Kilburn, Greta Kilgarrieff,
Edily Martins Co, Edilgia Nondja
Martins Co, Eedris Maylanchi,
Sumehra Rajkoomar. Nell Rashleigh-
Claye, Liberty Richardson-Bamber,
Dai'Sian-Deja Roach, Melita
Rochman, Yulika Tabu, Nihal Taylor,
Grace Zanotti-Wallgren

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager
Guy Ongley

Stage Manager
Rebecca Kensington

Lighting
Harrison Smith

PUPPET MAKERS

Marie Curie
Ada Lovelace
Alison Alexander

Jina
Judith Hope
(co-creator)

Hedy Lamarr
Maria Sybilla Merian
Hypatia
Roger, Julie and **Simon Lade**

Mae Jemison
Caroline Herschel
Wang Zhenyi
Sophia Lovell Smith

SET made by Scruffy Collar
Josh Dixon and **Simon Dixon**

DIGITAL PRODUCTION

RECORDING

Engineers

Evie Clark-Yospa, Curtis Elvidge

Editor and Mix Engineer

Curtis Elvidge

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Primo digital video productions

Show Projection

Alan Bowyer, Jack Townsend

RECORDED at THE PREMISES STUDIOS

HMDT MUSIC

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Tertia Sefton-Green

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Stem Sisters

Judith Allan

PR and Marketing

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and Abingdon School

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Walters for music technology assistance

CREATING STEM SISTERS

(DURING COVID!)

The aim of the STEM Sisters project is to inspire young people, especially girls to engage with and hopefully pursue an interest in STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. HMDT Music's methodology for the past twenty years has been to commission new works for young people and communities (usually for them to perform in), which enhance other areas of learning. Usually this means creating an opera often with both a historical focus and that of bringing unheard voices to the fore, supported by a bank of resources which embed the arts across the curriculum.

Jina and the STEM Sisters marks a big departure for HMDT Music from our large-scale shows featuring hundreds of children. In 2019 we decided to try a smaller format which could have a wider geographical reach and create something for just two professional performers. Given the circumstances we're currently living in, this certainly turned out to be a fortuitous decision!

From left:
Ada Lovelace, Caroline Herschel,
Hedy Lamar, Mae Jemison

STEM Sisters celebrates the achievements, discoveries and stories of diverse historical STEM women who fought against the odds to pursue their flair for scientific enquiry, but whose pioneering work was so often unrecognised. The importance of science has never been so apparent and relevant as now, but the link between the current Covid situation to that journey of scientific discovery, is not always obvious. This innovative and relevant multi-faceted project aims to both address this and excite interest in STEM, which is still under-represented by women and diversity, in a number of ways. Echoing this is the fact that the whole project team: creative, artistic, performance, scientific and production team is female.

The STEM Sisters Heritage Zone and Gallery is an ongoing body of research bringing together biographical information on many STEM women who experienced discrimination and challenges, often forced to sacrifice their reputations and sometimes even





their lives, to follow their ideas and get their achievements recognised. To date it focuses on women featured in the show, workshops and lesson resources and is aimed at being child-friendly for younger users.

Two interactive workshops have been created for schools, which KS2 classes receive as part of the project (included in their tickets when the show tours theatres live). *Explore the world of fossils with Mary Anning*, developed by science educator Jules Pottle offers an insight into Anning's life with children meeting a costumed interpreter palaeontologist and learning about her discoveries in Lyme Regis. Through practical activities including experiencing the discovery of finding fossils in the sand, putting together large skeleton jigsaws and handling fossils, children are drawn into the joy of discovery. *Three pioneers of Crystallography and three scientific missions* created by science communicator Dr Rowena Fletcher-Wood embeds the



stories of discoveries by Rosalind Franklin, Kathleen Lonsdale and Dorothy Hodgkin into an investigation of crystals through a microscope, diffraction of light through gratings and much more.

The Education Zone is an online bank of teaching plans, games and resources written by Jules, Rowena and artist educator Keith Parkinson using the women's discoveries and lives as innovative ways of teaching KS2 science, maths and the arts. Tailored to the curriculum it offers a range of fun activities such as using naturalist Maria Sybilla Merian's illustrations to explore the classification of living things and observational drawing, Caroline Herschel's work as an astronomer to learn about magnification and telescopes, or Mae Jemison's experiences as an astronaut to explore weightlessness and forces.

Jina and the STEM Sisters was created as a new musical puppet



From left:
Maria Sybilla Merian's illustrations,
Marie Curie, Mary Anning-
costumed interpreter workshop,
Rosalind Franklin

and multi-media show to tour theatres for schools and family audiences. In 2021 due to Covid, we were fortunate to be able to film it as a show as part of a schools' tour. We're delighted to now be able to show it live as it was envisaged, as part of our Spring Tour. In late 2019, we discussed with writer Rachel Barnett-Jones the choice of women and structure of the work. For the former we wanted to ensure their fields of work linked to the KS2 curriculum so we could develop resources around them, but also wanted to include a combination of the familiar and the unknown, a range of historical periods, reflect diversity and feature women who faced particular challenges and had interesting life-stories. After much research and deliberation, our 8 women were chosen and Rachel settled on an innovative dramatic structure, one which took its inspiration from the natural world whilst also echoing the ebb and flow of the nature of thought and scientific enquiry. The play wraps thoughts around stories, mimicking the shape of a shell or ammonite.

She also focused on key scientific attributes of curiosity, courage, creativity, persistence and open-mindedness each of which was assigned to a different woman or group as part of the storytelling, and would be illustrated with a song.

Composer Jenny Gould's brief in bringing these songs to life was to also embody them within a historical context and at times to contradict the norm and create the unexpected with great humour. So, whilst astronomer Caroline Herschel who was also a singer, flourishes Handelian coloratura and the first black female astronaut Mae Jemison 'dances to the stars' with an 80s-type funk, mathematician Ada Lovelace's association with the digital computer has her rapping and Marie Curie sings a Gilbert and Sullivan type witty patter song, whilst radiating a lethal glow. As with all HMDT Music's work, children were also involved in the composition process, with our I Can Sing! music theatre group devising the songs they would themselves sing, in workshops with Jenny, to give them

From left:
Wang Zhenyi, Caroline Herschel,
Mae Jemison, Maria Sybilla Merian





an ownership and creative input into the process. Director Clare Whistler and Designer Sophia Lovell Smith have created a world embracing both the historical and fairy-tale. Sophia's puppet designs draw on a number of styles; a combination of Wayang Golek and Kulit for the carved Hypatia who is star-lit and flies, rod puppets for Marie, Maria (whose illustrations are incorporated into her dress), Hedy and the child Jina who as the largest puppet can be articulated by either one or two puppeteers as her 'guardians'. Ada in contrast is a marionette, which enables her to lock and pop as much as her crinoline studded punch cards allows!

Creating the show during lockdown offered many challenges, at the forefront of which was everyone's safety. The band recorded at The Premises Studios, with such severe socially distanced restrictions that the wind player was in a different room with limited sight lines through two doors and the I Can Sing! chorus,



who had to learn all the music over zoom, made their recording debut singing in several small groups metres apart!

So, three years after conception and against the odds, the STEM Sisters project and *Jina and the STEM Sisters* the touring show, is ready. A huge thanks to the many people, (the majority of whom are female), who have helped it on its journey; from funders, to science educators, artists, creators, makers, production teams, children and my small but crucial team at HMDT Music.

Tertia Sefton-Green
Creative Director

STEM SISTERS BIOGRAPHIES [CLICK TO VIEW ONLINE](#)

ADA LOVELACE



CAROLINE HERSCHEL



HEDY LAMARR



HYPATIA



MAE JEMISON



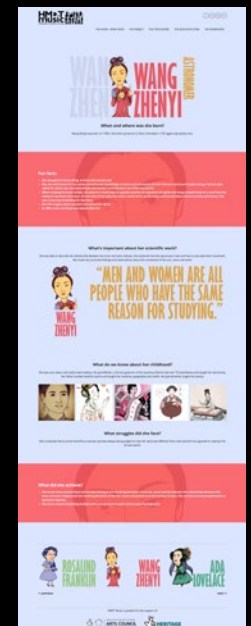
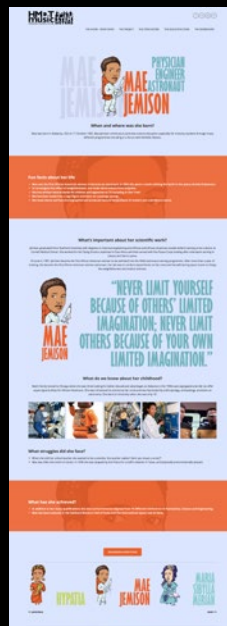
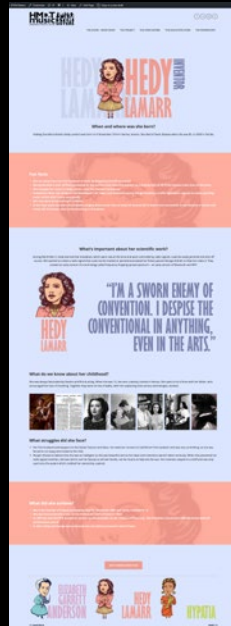
MARIE CURIE



MARIA SYBYLLA MERIAN



WANG ZHENYI





The Music Box Early Years

offers under 4s and their parents singing, movement and visits from guest artists on a range of instruments.



CYMH Instrumental School

offers instrumental tuition, choirs, musicianship, ensembles and orchestra.



The Julian Joseph Jazz Academy

enables students to work with leading jazz artists to explore jazz through its American roots.



I Can Sing! Performing Arts

offers music theatre training through voice, dance and stagecraft and performance opportunities.

HMDT music

ENSURING A MUSICAL FUTURE

HMDT Music twice winner of the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Education and 2020 Music and Drama Education Award for Excellence in Music Theatre, is a leader in creating inspiring arts projects to enrich learning and transform lives.

Working with world class artists and leading experts, HMDT Music increases access to high quality musical experiences by commissioning new performance works created through an artistic fellowship between artists and participants, developing cross-curricular resources, creating enduring partnerships, and sustaining an extensive outreach programme to schools and the community in areas of significant disadvantage and deprivation

Dedicated to breaking down barriers to participation, HMDT Music aims to offer all young people and their communities, particularly those with the least engagement, sustained artistic programmes together with life-changing performance opportunities to increase skills, raise aspirations and discover the joys of creativity.

Core Projects include The Saturday Programme, which offers: The Music Box (Early Years), Fledglings (Reception), I Can Sing! (Performing Arts), CYMH (Instrumental School), Music Treehouse (SEN/D) and the Julian Joseph Jazz Academy.

One Spirit, is HMDT Music's rehabilitation and mentoring programme for young offenders running since 2010 first at HMYOI Feltham and then also at HMYOI Cookham Wood, HMPs Highdown, and Aylesbury, and Oakhill Secure Training Centre.

HMDT Music's commissions for schools include *Trench Brothers* commemorating ethnic minority soldiers in the

First World War; *Shadowball*, a jazz opera celebrating black Baseball players of the 1930s-40s and their jazz compatriots; *Hear Our Voice* an international project working with students in London, Nuremberg and Prague creating a response to writings of children living through the Holocaust; *Confucius Says* celebrating the Beijing Olympics with a new opera created with 9 schools and *On London Fields* a community opera for Hackney developed through adult Skills for Life courses.

HMDT Music's three year project TIME (testing impact, measuring effect) has been working with six Lancashire schools to help them develop ways of embedding the arts across the curriculum.

Since 1995:
I Over 70,000 people have participated in workshops, projects and performances;
I More than 47 new works have been commissioned and performed;
I HMDT Music has grown from being a small local charity to working across the UK and internationally.

HMDT..... is deservedly touted as one of the country's exemplary arts education outfits.

OPERA MAGAZINE

The 5 years I've been with HMDT Music have been the best of my life. HMDT Music has allowed me to grow, not just as a musician, actor and singer but as a person. I've learnt a range of things that are uncountable, from teamwork to determination.

SAMSON, STUDENT

Without the One Spirit Project I would be back in jail. Now I would love to be mentoring and do the same for other people that the project did for me.

HOWARD, EX-OFFENDER

It has been a great four years for me too, watching her grow in confidence and seeing the social benefits she has derived from taking part, not just the technical ones. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. ICS! has been one of the most rewarding elements of her primary school years – and I include Trench Brothers in that.

DIANE, PARENT

No other musical company matches HMDT Music for quality, outstanding outcomes, profound musical and cross-curricular learning and long-term legacy. HMDT helped me turn around staff and parental expectations of the standard that could be achieved at the highest level across the whole school, leading to our first Outstanding Ofsted report.

JACQUELINE BRUTON-SIMMONDS, EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER, JUBILEE SCHOOL



The Hackney Chronicles 2001

Touring Primary School cross-curricular project with an opera by Jonathan Dove celebrating Hackney's history.



The World Was All Before Them 2004

A Primary Schools opera telling the stories of how students' parents came to Hackney.



On London Fields 2004

Community Opera created as part of Operation Hackney Skills for Life Courses.

Royal Philharmonic Society Award Winner



I'll Be Seeing You 2005

Community Opera commemorating the Home Front during WWII as part of HMDT's 10th Anniversary Concert celebration.



Hear Our Voice 2006

Cantata set to children's Holocaust writings performed in, and with, children from Nuremberg, Prague and London.



Confucius Says 2008

Opera with nine schools celebrating the Beijing Olympics.

Royal Philharmonic Society Award Winner



Shadowball 2010

Jazz opera and baseball project for Primary School students. National Tour 2012.



The Brown Bomber 2012

Jazz dance and boxing project for Secondary School students.

PRS for Music Foundation's 20 x 12 Programme
RPS New Works Award Winner



Trench Brothers 2014 -2018

First World War project about ethnic minority soldiers using puppetry, artefacts, composition and performance.

Excellence in Musical Theatre Award
David Bedford Education Award



One Spirit

An ongoing arts and mentoring rehabilitation project with young offenders.

BIOGRAPHIES



Rachel Barnett-Jones Writer

Rachel's work has been performed at theatres in the UK and abroad, including The Royal Court, Theatre 503, and The Arcola Theatre, also at Chichester Festival Theatre, Royal and Derngate, Latitude Festival, Manhattan Theatre Source in New York, Live Girls in Seattle, Key City Public Theatre in Washington and Auroville in India. Following a BA in English Literature from Cardiff University and an MA in Writing for Performance from Central School of Speech and Drama, she has specialised in working with young people, people with disabilities and community groups. She shares her time between playwriting, producing, workshop leading, lecturing, copywriting, company management, fundraising, project management and consultancy. Writing projects to date include original work, adaptations, translations, theatre in education projects, pieces for young audiences and young performers, and dramaturgy of collaborative devised work.



Nadine Benjamin Voice of Mae Jemison and Hedy Lamarr

Lyric soprano Nadine is in increasing demand on both the operatic stage and concert platform as an exponent of song, in particular Verdi, Strauss, Berg and contemporary American. A Harewood Artist with English National Opera from 2018-20, roles include Clara *Porgy and Bess*, Musetta *La bohème* and Laura Luisa *Miller*. Her Royal Opera House debut was in *New Dark Age*. Nadine has performed title role in *Aida*, Cio-Cio-San *Madama Butterfly*, La Contessa *Le nozze di Figaro*, Nadia in Tippet's *The Ice Break* (Birmingham Opera Company), Tosca and The Countess *Figaro* (English Touring Opera), Ermyrtrude in Mascagni's *Isabeau* and Amelia *Un ballo in maschera* (Opera Holland Park). She has performed at the BBC Proms, in many concerts abroad and in the UK and released a solo CD *Love & Prayer* in 2018.



Sarah Brinkley Clarinet, Flute, Sax

Sarah studied music and clarinet at Birmingham University and Conservatoire. Since then she has played jazz in Chicago and Santa Fe – studying with Eddie Daniels and now regularly depts in big bands in the UK on alto and tenor saxophones. A regular player for opera projects on clarinet and bass clarinet Sarah has also played in many youth theatre productions for Chichester Festival Youth Theatre over the last ten years and has also played for Opera Brava. Sarah also works as a "tripler" in musicals on clarinet, flute and saxophones. She has played in musicals at the Edinburgh Festival, regularly at the Chichester Festival Theatre and at a variety of local theatres across the country.



Ruth Calkin Puppeteer/Actor

Ruth's most recent work includes solo performer in Little Angel Theatre's award-nominated production *The Bed* (included in 2020's *12 Days of Christmas* YouTube culture commission) and socially distanced performances of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* for MEI at Hertford Theatre. Other work includes: *The Clementine Show* (resident at The Crazy Coqs, Brasserie Zedel); *Twirlywoos* (Live!) National Tour/Underbelly, Southbank (MEI) and *Siyanda*, *Protector of Plants*, Theatre Rites @ Kew Gardens. Ruth has been an actor/puppeteer and musician since 1998 and has worked with many companies including Polka, Kneehigh, The RSC and Oily Cart and with directors such as Will Tuckett and Steve Tiplady. This is her first production with HMDT Music.



Eloise Eisenberg Voice of Jina

Fifteen year old Ellie has studied with HMDT Music's I Can Sing! music theatre programme since she was five. A keen clarinettist, pianist and dancer she also enjoys composing her own songs. Ellie has performed at The Wigmore Hall, Brighton Dome (HMDT Music's *Trench Brothers*) and for the Mayor's Diwali Festival in Trafalgar Square. Singing the role of Jina in *STEM Sisters* marks her recording debut.



Jessica Gillingwater Voice of Maria Sybilla Merian and Wang Zhenyi

Mezzo soprano Jessica Gillingwater is a member of the BBC Singers and sings regularly with Exaudi, Solomon's Knot and the Dunedin Consort. Recent solo highlights include Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with Sofi Jeannin, Bernstein's *Jeremiah* symphony with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Duruflé's *Requiem* with Stephen Cleobury and the BBC Concert Orchestra and *Mrs Noye* in Britten's *Noye's Fludde* with Martyn Brabbins. Jessica also has a keen interest in contemporary music and has recently performed Boulez's *Le Marteau Sans Maître* and Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures*. Jessica has recently established a recital series, "Proud Songsters", highlights of which have included Elgar's *Sea Pictures*, Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été* and Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*.



Jenny Gould Composer and Music Director

Jenny is a freelance composer, musical director, pianist, singer, songwriter and teacher. She is Composer/MD for Opera Brava (children's opera *Prince Caspian*), Full Circle Children's Theatre Company and Young Shakespeare Company as well as being co-creator, with Hurly Burly Co., of *Over the Moon*, a first opera for little people, for 0-2s. Work for HMDT Music includes Associate MD *Shadowball* and Letter Song Composer/MD for *Trench Brothers*, alongside numerous song-writing workshops. Her children's songbook, *Songs of Imaginings*, is published by Stainer & Bell. Jenny is a gigging songwriter, artist name Jenni, with a self-released EP, *Spring*.



Abigail Kelly Voice of Caroline Herschel

Abigail studied at Royal Birmingham and Royal Scottish Conservatoires. Operatic roles include Pamina *The Magic Flute* (OperaUpClose), Ninetta *La gazza ladra* (Midland Opera) and for English Touring Opera: Susanna *The Marriage of Figaro*, Despina *Così fan Tutte*, Fido *Paul Bunyan*, Naiad *Rusalka*, and Cobweb *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Abigail enjoys performing operas for children and fSEND audiences including award-winning Laika the *Spacedog* (Yealland/Hepplewhite). She has facilitated workshops with Welsh National Opera (Birmingham Youth Opera), Birmingham Opera Company, English National Opera, ETO, Streetwise Opera and the Royal Opera House. Abigail's online performances in 2020 include an operatic recital for younger audiences (Royal Albert Hall); *Shh! we have a plan*; *Sammy Sammy and the Beanstalk* (OperaUpClose) and UNSEEN (Streetwise Opera).



Lauren Kosty Percussion

Lauren is a multi-percussionist who performs regularly in a range of genres including classical, jazz, musical theatre & recording for film, TV, and pop. Lauren is currently the percussionist & drummer for UK Best Selling Artists, Russell Watson & Aled Jones. Other performance highlights include appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, International Bruckner Festival, Clean Bandit at the EMAs, Puff Daddy at the AMAs and Cirque Du Soleil live on MTV. Additionally she has recorded at Capitol Records with Grammy Nominated Artist David Benoit and Sony Scoring Stage with Emmy Award winning composer, Bear McCreary. Lauren holds a Bachelor of Music from the USC Thornton School of Music and Master of Music from Carnegie Mellon College of Fine Arts.



Sophia Lovell Smith Designer

Sophia studied Theatre Arts at Bretton Hall and designs for theatre, opera, dance and interactive performance for children. This Spring she is designing *Little Red* for Polka Theatre's opening of their new Nest Theatre. Recent productions include *The Bed* for Little Angel Theatre (Offies 2020 finalist), *My Mother Said I Never Should* for Crucible, Sheffield Theatres & fingersmiths, *Paper Aeroplane* for Half Moon Theatre, Full House Theatre's *Little Darling* and *Peace At Last* for Opera Up Close. Sophia had worked for Spitalfields Music, Southbank Centre, Barbican, Trestle, Royal & Derngate Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse, Theatre By The Lake, Unicorn, Regents Park Theatre, Theatre Rites, Kali, ETO and others.



Joana Ly Violin

Portuguese violinist Joana started playing violin aged 4 and soon joined the Aveiro Conservatoire of Music. Continuing her studies, as a Gulbenkian scholar, her main teachers were Radu Blidar (RCM London) and Gordan Nikolic (Codarts, Rotterdam). As a chamber musician, Joana is a member of the Corran Quartet, co-manages Artisti con Brio and attended festivals such as Harmus Festival, Darlington Festival, EUBO Mobile Academy, Freiburg Barokorchester Academy, Stift International Festival, Aurora Chamber Music and Lake District Chamber Music. Joana has been a member and guest in several orchestras including Garsington Opera, Opera North, Philharmonia, London Mozart Players, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia, Britten Sinfonia, Opera North, Philharmonia Amsterdam, Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester.



Molly McWhirter Cello

Molly McWhirter is a Scottish cellist, recently obtaining her Masters in Performance with Distinction at Guildhall School of Music. Since, she has freelanced with ensembles like Scottish Ballet, Isobel Griffiths, Heritage Orchestra and London Concertante. She has played alongside LSO, BBCSSO & ASMF. Molly recently performed Schumann Concerto as soloist and has received master classes from top musicians such as Rebecca Gilliver and Pieter Wispelwey. She has studied with the London Haydn, Heath, Chilingirian and Endellion Quartets. She is a founding member of Corran Quartet, recently performing live on BBC Radio 3 and looking forward to their 2021 mentorship within Chamber Studio.



Susan Moore **Voice of Marie Curie**

Susan Moore is a freelance Contralto and Director. Recent roles include: Mrs Herring Albert Herring Halifax Opera Festival (Canada), Lady Jane (Patience), Third Lady (The Magic Flute) English Touring Opera (ETO), Marcellina (Figaros Bryllup) Pop Up Opera/ Kilden Theatre-Norway, Ericlea (The Return of Ulysses) Iford Arts/Early Opera Company and Valentina (Laika the Spacedog), Mrs. Plumpster (Borka) and Milly (Silver Electra), in ETO's operas for children by Yealland/Hepplewhite. Susan has directed children's opera: The Price (Eastman/Hepplewhite), Cutlass Crew (Sturrock/Hancock), Shadowtracks (Jones/Grant) and Jukebox (Script Writer and Director) for W11 Opera where she is Artistic Director, *The World Was All Before Them* (Middleton/King) and *We'll Meet Again* for HMDT Music, *Shackleton's Cat* (Yealland/Hepplewhite) for ETO, *The Casket Girl* (Eastman/Hepplewhite) for Jubilee Opera.



Jo Nichols **Bass**

Jo Nichols, born in Oxford in 1981, studied flute and piano at Birmingham Conservatoire and the Royal Academy of Music prior to concentrating on electric and acoustic bass. She quickly established a presence in musical theatre and has performed on scores of productions, including Legally Blonde, Lion King, Beautiful, A Chorus Line, and Wicked, and was in the orchestra of Aladdin during its recent West End run. She has worked extensively at the Chichester Festival Theatre (Sweeney Todd) and the National Theatre (Peter Gynat, The Visit). Her playing is featured on Gary Barlow's Number 1 and gold-selling album Music Played by Humans and she is a member of comedian Rob Brydon's live band.



Andrea Sadler **Puppeteer/Actor**

Andrea is an actor, singer, puppeteer, writer and director. Since training at The Central School of Speech and Drama she has enjoyed a wide variety of roles in theatre, film and TV. Puppetry credits include *Five Little Christmas Monkeys* (Park Theatre); *The Dong With A Luminous Nose* (Metal Rabbit/ Cubic Feet); *Dogs Don't Do Ballet*, *Little Angel by the Sea*, *Cindermouse*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, *The Fabulous Flutterbys*, *Goldilocks*, *The Wild Night of the Witches* (Little Angel Theatre), *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings* (Kneehigh) and *Bookstory* (Monstro Theatre). Other roles include *A Christmas Carol* (Antic Disposition); *Round the Home: Revisited* (national tour); *The Canterbury Tales* (Nottingham Theatre Royal), and an outraged French teacher in *The Basil Brush Show* (CBBC).



Clare Whistler **Director**

Clare is a site-specific collaborative artist who creates events across many art forms. Trained at Elmhurst Ballet School and Rambert, her dance and choreography career started in Canada followed by 15 years in San Francisco with her own dance company. For Glyndebourne Opera, numerous education projects as director and choreographer, mainstage as Assistant Director to Richard Jones and worldwide productions of *Theodora* and *Tristan* for Peter Sellars. Choreography for Olivia Fuchs includes Opera Holland Park, Garsington Opera, Buenos Aires and in Denmark. For HMDT Music Clare has directed *Hear Our Voice*, *Confucius Says* (RPS Award) and *Trench Brothers* (Excellence in Musical Theatre Award).



I Can Sing! **Children's Chorus**

The students of the Children's Chorus attend I Can Sing!; HMDT Music's Saturday Programme music theatre strand, which focusses on the ensemble performing tradition, drawing on repertoire that includes classic Broadway numbers alongside HMDT Music's own original commissions. ICS! offers students aged 5-16 the opportunity to experience the excitement of musical theatre training and performance. Working in a variety of stage disciplines with leading professional artists, they gain new skills, confidence and firm friendships. Many of the young people performing on *Jina and the STEM Sisters* have been with the programme for several years, some since they were babies! Whilst this marks their recording debut, other public performances by I Can Sing! include HMDT Music's *Trench Brothers* at Brighton Dome.



VISIT **WWW.HMDTMUSIC.ORG.UK**
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PICTURE CREDITS

Performance Photos: Clive Barda
STEM Sisters portraits: Judith Allan